(d) Recently, notifications have been issued vide S.O. No. 878(E) and S. No. No. 879(E) dated 31.7.2002 substantially reducing the number of forms for returns of tax deducted/collected at source.

Institution of IT-Ombudsman

2908. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes has proposed setting up of an independent institution of IT-Ombudsman;

(b) whether such an institution will operate from 10 tax paying cities and all the State Capitals; and

(c) whether the IT-Ombudsman will also enquire into practice and performance of all classes of tax professionals on complaints filed by the tax payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the proposal for creation of the institution of Income-tax Ombudsman, along with its functions and powers, is under consideration of the Government.

Pension for Senior Citizen Scheme

2909. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pension for Senior Citizen Scheme is likely to impose upon the Centre a burden on account of hefty interest subsidy;

(b) whether Government have committed itself to bridging the gap on the returns earned by LIC on the premium collected and assured return of 9 per cent;

(c) whether Government propose to deploy the premium collections on Golden quadrilateral Project of NHAI which would ease the subsidy burden of Government; and